

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 767

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION expressing support for the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and commemorative events honoring Native Americans.

WHEREAS, the Cherokee, the Muscogee (Creek), the Chickasaw, and other American Indian nations were forcibly removed from their original homelands in what is now the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the routes taken during the process of that removal came to be known collectively as the "Trail of Tears"; and

WHEREAS, the combined Water, Northern, Bell, and Benge routes passed through over one third (thirty-nine) of Tennessee's current counties, including Monroe, McMinn, Polk, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Hardin Decatur, Perry, Benton, Humphreys, Houston, Henry, Stewart, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, Van Buren, Sequatchie, Grundy, Warren, Cannon, Rutherford, Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, Franklin, Lincoln, Giles, Lawrence, Wayne, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman, Fayette, Shelby, Maury, Hickman, and Weakly counties; and

WHEREAS, organizations and individuals along the routes have taken on the responsibility of planning, organizing and holding annual commemorative events in remembrance of those who originally walked the Trail of Tears in Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Giles, Lawrence, Lincoln, Robertson, and Wilson Counties; and

WHEREAS, those events serve to promote awareness and education about a tragic point in the history of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, historically accurate and complete inclusion of Tennessee's original American Indian inhabitants and their histories in the education Tennessee's youth, residents,

and visitors is vital to the understanding of the rich history of the State of Tennessee and to the mental and cultural well-being of its current American Indian residents; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of the history of the original American Indian inhabitants of Tennessee promotes better understanding of the spiritual and cultural significance of certain sites in Tennessee to Native Americans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we support and commend the Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association for their continuing efforts to research and document the routes and events leading up to and following the removal of Tennessee's original American Indian inhabitants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislative body supports and commends the efforts and continuation of the following commemorative events and sponsoring organizations or individuals:

Trail of Tears Remembrance Motorcycle Ride (September 10, 2010, third Saturday of September annually, beginning in Hamilton County at Chattanooga and including Marion, Grundy, Franklin, Lincoln, Giles, and Lawrence Counties) - Trail of Tears Remembrance Association, Inc.;

First Nations Gathering Remembrance Event (September 18, 2010, third Saturday of September annually, Lincoln County at Fayetteville) - Debbie Shattuck Capino and First Nations People;

Where We Walked and Where We Cried (September 25, 2010, annual commemorative walk and service, Wilson County at Mt. Juliet) - Melba Checote Eads;

Port Royal Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk (October 9, 2010, annual commemorative walk, Port Royal State Historic Site, Adams) - Port Royal State Park, Friends of Port Royal;

Trail of Tears A Walk Into History (October 22, 2010, annual commemorative event, Giles County at Elkton) - Vicky Garland and Debbie Capino;

Trail of Tears Re-enactment Walk (October 30, 2010, annual commemorative event and walk, Lincoln County at Fayetteville) - Debbie Shattuck Capino and First Nations People;

Trail of Tears Re-enactment Walk (November 6, 2010, annual commemorative walk, Lawrence County at Lawrenceburg) - Vicky Garland and Lawrence County Trail of Tears Committee; and

Bell and Bengel Routes Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride and Re-enactment Walk (November 13, 2010, annual event, Giles County at Pulaski) - Giles County Tourism/Giles County Trail of Tears Memorial Interpretive Center and Vicky Garland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.